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FIGHTING WORDS FOR SEAL AND KLUM {page 07}

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BOSTON
Tuesday, September 4, 2012

DOES GUN SHOW GO OVER THE BORDERLINE?

- After stirring controversy from Russia to Philadelphia for concerts featuring guns and crucifixes, Madonna brings her raunch to Boston
- Tells Metro: 'My show is my journey ... from darkness to light' {page 02}

Madonna and mayhem

Madonna's 'MDNA' tour has flaunted guns, swastikas, her bare backside and her breast ◗ Head of Boston anti-gun group says she should she be ashamed of herself ◗ Others say Material Girl just 'expressing' herself

REDFERNS VIA GETTY IMAGES

▶ Madonna performs during the opening night of the U.K. leg of her "MDNA" tour in Hyde Park last month.

The North American leg of Madonna's "MDNA" world tour opened in Philadelphia last week, and tonight it's hitting the TD Garden, guns a-blazing.

In light of several mass shootings that have rocked the nation this summer and a rash of gun violence in the Boston area, the concert has some local gun safety advocates shaking their heads.

The 54-year-old pop icon's performance includes a variety of gunplay, including her holding a revolver to her head, her crotch and the crowd.

"Madonna should be ashamed of herself," said John Rosenthal, founder of Boston's Stop Handgun Violence. "It is totally inappropriate to bring that show to the gun violence capital of the world, where 150 Americans are shot daily," he said.

The show will gun on

Madonna's publicist Liz Rosenberg said there are no plans to tone down the use of fake firearms during the artist's American tour dates.

"It's ludicrous to blame Madonna for the recent tragedies in this country and elsewhere," she said.

Madonna called her show "the journey of my story" and said its performance brings the audience along to her discovery that the enemy is within and the only way to change the world is to change oneself. "When you watch a film, there are usually good guys and bad guys to help illustrate this point," she wrote. "Sometimes I play both."

Since January, Boston police have reported 21 homicides with a firearm and a total of 143 non-fatal shootings.

In a statement to Metro defending her show, Madonna said, "It's true there is a lot of violence in the beginning of the show and sometimes the use of fake guns — but they are used as metaphors. I do not condone violence or the use of guns. Rather they are symbols of wanting to appear strong and wanting to find a way to stop feelings that I find hurtful or damaging. In my case it['s] wanting to stop the lies and hypocrisy of the church, the intolerance of many narrow-minded cultures and societies I have experienced throughout my life and in some cases the pain I have felt from having my heart broken."

Despite the interpretation by many that the gunplay is in bad taste, not all are convinced that Madonna's show glorifies gun violence.

"The spike in gun violence certainly brings a lot of attention to this tour," said Nancy Robinson, executive director of Jamaica Plain-based Citizens for Safety. "I can see where it would be gimmicky, and perceived as insensitive by most, but if she was not coming to [Boston] with her concert promoting guns, would it save any lives? I'm not sure we can ... make the case that it would."

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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Madonna's 'manifesto' about 'MDNA'

Here's some more from Madonna's bizarre, poem-like statement that her spokeswoman sent to Metro last week (her writing intact):

"My show
Is a journey.
The journey of a soul from darkness to light
It is part cinematic musical theatre.
Part spectacle and sometimes intimate Performance art."
"But above all its a journey
From darkness to light
From anger to love
from chaos to order."
"Ultimately as we follow through the journey of my story, the audience can see quite clearly what I see ... That the enemy is within and the only way to survive Disappointment Disapproval Judgment Heartbreak Jealousy Envy And Hatred Is with Love – not with revenge — not with guns and not with violence.
In spite of all the chaos and darkness and intolerance we seem to be encountering more and more in the world, We cannot allow our anger or bitterness to swallow us up.
We come to understand that. There is an innate and pure love inside us all and we have to find a way to tap into it."

The lewd and the crude

May 31 – Madonna opens her tour in Tel Aviv, Israel, by emerging in a confessional and smashing a rifle through its glass window as dancers dressed like Vatican guards swing a giant incense canister in front of a huge crucifix. She later brandishes an AK47 while images of shattered skulls and bloody brains play onscreen. She ends the show by wrapping herself in an Israeli flag and calling for world peace.

June 7 – In a performance in Istanbul, Turkey, Madonna shocks the traditionally Islamic country by peeling open one bra cup during a striptease, exposing her bare breast.

June 12 –Madonna tops off a song in Rome by pulling down her pants and mooning the crowd.

July 13 – A Paris performance features video of Marine Le Pen, leader of France's far-right National Front party, with a swastika inked on her forehead, prompting lawsuit threats.

July 17 – Madonna holds a revolver to her head during a London performance, then points it at her crotch and at the crowd.

July 21 – After being warned by police in Edinburgh, Scotland, to respect the country's strict firearms laws and leave the gunplay out of her act, Madonna draws criticism when she uses the props anyway while joking that the show might be cut off. The performance also comes less than 36 hours after the mass movie theater shooting in Aurora, Colo.

August 9 – At a tour date in St. Petersburg, Russia, Madonna tramples on an Orthodox cross and criticizes the harsh prison sentence handed down to punk band Pussy Riot for their church protest performance. She is now being sued for $10 million on behalf of concertgoers whose lawyer claims they suffered psychological stress.

In the news

49

That's how many cows were allegedly stolen from a farm in Dartmouth over the weekend. Police there are investigating the theft, which they believe happened sometime between 10 p.m. and midnight. Police reportedly said they have "a few ideas" about what happened but did not release details. The stolen cattle are reportedly worth $50,000..

METRO

Today's local tweet

"Welp, just got our 1st noise complaint of the year... For running on our treadmill too late last night. We don't have a treadmill. #Boston"

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Woman injured in hit-and-run; police looking for suspect

Police yesterday were searching for the driver of a motorcycle that struck a young woman as she tried to cross Commonwealth Avenue on Sunday night.

The woman, who police only identified as being in her early 20s, was hit just before 8 p.m. near 755 Commonwealth Ave., and Boston University's Marsh Plaza. It was not clear if the woman was a student at the university, and a university spokesman said he was not aware of the identity of the woman.

The woman was injured, but her injuries were not considered life-threatening. She was taken to Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Witnesses told police that the woman was in a crosswalk when she was hit. Witnesses described the motorcycle as black. While the driver fled, pieces of the motorcycle were left behind at the scene, according to Officer James Kenneally, a Boston police spokesman.

▶ Be careful crossing 'Comm Ave.'

"Police are looking for additional help. As such, anyone that has information about the location or identification of the operator — certainly that information would be most appreciated," Kenneally said.

The crossing is a busy intersection on any day. Commonwealth Avenue carries two lanes of traffic on each side along that stretch, which also runs along a major portion of Boston University's campus. Yesterday, scores of new and returning students and young people crossed with and against walk signs.

Colin Riley, a BU spokesman, said the university always warns and reminds students that they are attending school on an urban campus and to use caution.

Anyone with information can call 800-494-TIPS or text "tip" to 27463 (crime).

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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Labor Day. Lounging

▶ Despite cooler temperatures, M Street Beach in South Boston had no shortage of people yesterday.

COURTNEY SACCO/METRO

Enjoying final days at the beach

With Labor Day marking the unofficial end of summer, hundreds of people tried to squeeze in at least one last beach day in South Boston yesterday. The sun was shining as revelers soaked up the rays, but the temperatures only reached the mid-70s. Autumn officially starts Sept. 22. METRO

Menino mum on Senate endorsement

BOSTON. Boston Mayor Thomas Menino said yesterday he would decide "very shortly" on whether to endorse U.S. Sen. Scott Brown or Democrat Elizabeth Warren in this year's Senate contest.

Despite Menino saying that Brown has had an inconsistent record of voting for Massachusetts' working families, the powerful Boston mayor has yet to endorse Warren and his words were being closely monitored yesterday by those at the Greater Boston Labor Council annual Labor Day breakfast due to the strong political organization he commands in the city.

"We'll make a decision very shortly and we'll have an impact on the election whoever we support," said Menino, adding it is still early yet.

SHNS/METRO

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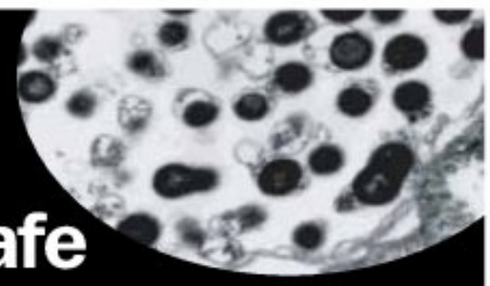

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Fitness on the Plaza to run until end of month

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Fitness on the Plaza opened with a yoga class in June and has grown since.

As part of Mayor Thomas Menino's Boston Moves for Health program, Fitness on the Plaza, which was scheduled to end over the weekend, will be extended through September.

The free exercise classes on City Hall Plaza, which include morning and evening boot camp and Zumba, have seen overwhelming turnout and positive feedback, according to a spokeswoman for the Boston Public Health Commission.

"These free fitness classes are too good to end," said Menino. "We've seen such a positive reaction. People love being able to get out and get active in a whole variety of new and different ways."

The mayor has challenged the city to collectively lose 1 million pounds and move 10 million miles in 2012.

The initiative aims to improve the health and wellness of the city by increasing access to free and low-cost physical activities and healthy living resources.

All Fitness on the Plaza participants are encouraged to keep track of their physical activity, weight-loss goals, and progress at BostonMovesForHealth.org. METRO/MN

1M

The mayor has challenged the city to collectively lose 1 million pounds and move 10 million miles over the next year.

Get moving!

- The Z Spot Zumba Classes taking place on the City Hall Plaza will run every Monday night, 6 p.m.—7 p.m. until Sept. 24.
- Fitcorp Bootcamp on the Plaza will run every Wednesday night, 5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m. until Sept. 26.
- Beantown Bootcamp on the Plaza will run every Friday, 6:30 a.m.—7:30 a.m. until Sept. 28. METRO

News in brief

Man allegedly steals cops' crime scene tape

BOSTON. A Boston man will likely face a judge today for allegedly breaking into not just any motor vehicle, but a police cruiser.

Police responded to a disturbance call at an apartment on Corey Street in Charlestown just after 3 a.m. Sunday. When officers arrived they found Brian McIntyre, 47, allegedly causing the disturbance, and asked him to leave. He "begrudgingly" agreed to leave, police said.

Witnesses then told officers that when McIntyre broke into a police cruiser and stole a spool of yellow Boston police crime scene tape, police said.

Officers were able catch up to McIntyre a short distance away.

METRO FILE PHOTO

"Upon locating the suspect, officers noted that the suspect was standing over a spool of yellow crime scene tape," police said in a statement.

Officers then arrested him for breaking into a motor vehicle. METRO

Man's shorts falling off leads to arrest

BOSTON. A Boston man who police said they found urinating on the front steps of a building on Tremont Street was arrested early Sunday morning after a foot chase ended with the suspect losing his shorts.

Chris Trenti, 21, was charged with indecent exposure and resisting arrest after he allegedly took off after Boston police told him to find "a proper urinal" around 1:17 a.m.

Police said that while they were chasing him, Trenti tripped over his own shorts several times as they fell while he was running and he eventually abandoned his bottoms after they "repeatedly fell below his waist."

Police said they caught up to the abandoned shorts, which contained Trenti's wallet and, "not surprisingly," several forms of ID that eventually led to his arrest. METRO

Drugs shipped to man in Aspirin bottles

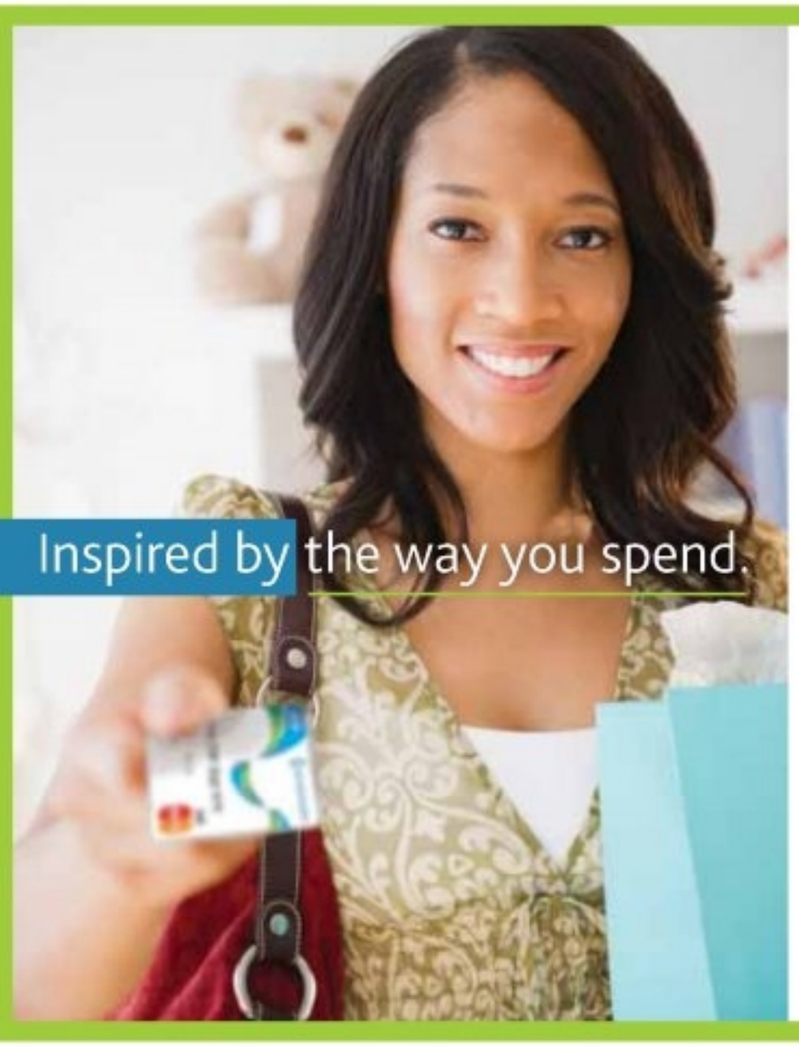
BOSTON. More than 1,000 oxycodone pills were shipped to an East Boston man in Aspirin bottles, police said. Carl Desert, 30, of East Boston, was charged with trafficking drugs in excess of 100 grams and trafficking drugs within 100 feet of a school zone.

An alert postal inspector identified a suspicious Express Mail package Friday afternoon and alerted police. The package was shipped from Florida and was addressed to an East Boston apartment.

Boston police brought in a drug-sniffing dog to inspect the package, and the dog alerted officers that it detected narcotics, police said.

Boston and state police, along with the postal inspector, went to the address written on the package. They delivered it to Desert, who said he was the occupant of the apartment, police said. After Desert signed for the package, police arrested him.

Inside the package they found 1,345 oxycodone pills hidden inside Aspirin bottles. METRO



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News in brief

A MAJEED/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Two US consulate employees wounded in Pakistan attack

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN. Two Americans working for the U.S. consulate were wounded yesterday in a bomb attack on their vehicle in the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

The blast also wounded two Pakistani employees of the consulate, the U.S. embassy in Islamabad said in a statement.

Earlier, regional Information Minister Mian Iftikhar Hussain told reporters at least four people, including two Americans, were killed in an attack by a suicide bomber in a vehicle. **REUTERS**

Romney, Obama neck and neck ahead of DNC

WASHINGTON. President Barack Obama enters an important campaign week tied with Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, a Reuters/Ipsos poll found on Sunday, leaving the incumbent an opportunity to edge ahead of his opponent at the Democratic National Convention.

With the Democrats set to nominate Obama for a second term this week in Charlotte, North Carolina, the race to the presidential election on Nov. 6 is tight, with 45 percent for Obama and 45 percent for challenger Romney among likely voters, the survey found. **REUTERS**

Israeli plays down report of Iran-US deal over attack

JERUSALEM. Israeli officials played down a report in an Israeli newspaper yesterday that accused Washington of secretly negotiating with Tehran to keep the United States out of a future Israel-Iran war.

The newspaper said Washington had approached Tehran through two unidentified European countries to convey the message that the United States would not be dragged into hostilities if Israel attacked Iran over its nuclear programme. **REUTERS**

Navy SEAL's new bin Laden book out-sells '50 Shades' online

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The bin Laden compound was the site of the Navy SEAL operation.

"No Easy Day," the controversial book by a former U.S. Navy SEAL about the commando raid that killed Osama bin Laden, has stormed to the top of U.S. book sales on online retailer Amazon.com.

The unauthorized book, which has caused the government to threaten legal action on the grounds of non-disclosure of government secrets, is already out-selling the hugely popular "Fifty Shades of Grey" erotica book series.

The hardcover edition of "No Easy Day" officially becomes available in the United States today. Amazon.com's best-seller list includes pre-orders.

"No Easy Day: The Firsthand Account of the Mission That Killed Osama Bin Laden," is written by a Navy SEAL operative under the pseudonym Mark Owen.

His real name, Matt Bissonnette, was revealed shortly after news broke that the firsthand account of the daring operation on the al Qaeda leader's compound in Pakistan last year was to be published. Reuters obtained an advance copy of the book from the publisher, Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Group USA.

The Pentagon has threatened legal action against Bissonnette for alleged violation of non-disclosure agreements because the manuscript was not submitted for a pre-publication security review. Bissonnette's attorney responded that the subject matter of his book was not covered by non-disclosure agreements he has signed. **REUTERS**

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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

Seal bitter about Klum's new man

When photos surfaced of **Heidi Klum** vacationing with her bodyguard, **Martin Kristen**, in Italy over the weekend, it didn't quite look like anyone was on the clock. Klum's ex-husband, **Seal**, was more than happy to confirm the rumors.

"I would have preferred Heidi show a little bit more class and at least wait until we separated first before deciding to fornicate with the help, as it were," the singer told TMZ when asked for a comment on the photos, which show Kristen and Klum with their arms around each other. "But I guess you now all have the answer that you've been looking for for the past seven months."

Usually we'd feel gross still talking about a couple who separated almost eight months ago, but you'll remember that these two made us watch as they renewed their vows every year. Plus, they have "help" to "fornicate" with — they'll be OK.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Hazard of the job: There are lots of photos of Seal looking like this.

Heidi Klum for the win

As for Heidi Klum, she pulled out all of her PR tricks for an expertly crafted masterpiece of a rebuttal: "I cherish all of the great memories Seal and I created together over the years. Our separation was based on issues between the two of us," she tells Us Weekly. "Seal has moved on and so have I. My priority has and continues to be protecting and providing for our children."

Now that, friends, is a thing of beauty. Serene on the surface with unmistakable hints of superiority and a potential for highly personal media warfare — we're getting chills just reading it.

Phelps always plays to win

Perhaps not surprisingly, **Michael Phelps** went to Las Vegas to win. While in town with friends over the weekend, he raked in somewhere in the neighborhood of $100,000 playing poker at Caesar's Palace, reports TMZ. He promptly spent most of it at the nightclub at the Wynn hotel, the scene of **Prince Harry**'s recent photo scandal. From what we can tell, Phelps didn't take things upstairs — but if he did, you better believe he wasn't going to lose a game of strip pool to a bunch of Vegas party girls.

One less bill for Cage

He may still be in tax trouble, but **Nicolas Cage** has at least one tab settled. After the actor racked up $224 in late fees for "The King of Comedy" and "A Star is Born," L.A.'s Old Bank DVD launched a Facebook campaign for him to pay up. Over the weekend, Cage called the store to apologize, blaming the mistake on his assistant — making him, quite possibly, the only guy with an assistant who still rents DVDs from video stores.

It's cool, Nic — we all have some embarrassing titles in the Netflix queue.

Talking points

Actor Michael Clarke Duncan dead at age 54

Actor **Michael Clarke Duncan,** 54, died yesterday in Los Angeles, two months after suffering a heart attack, according to a statement released by his fiance, former "The Apprentice" contestant **Omarosa Manigault-Stallworth.** Duncan, who began his career in Hollywood as a bodyguard, earned an Oscar nomination for his breakout role in "The Green Mile." He also appeared in "Daredevil," "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby," the 2001 "Planet of the Apes" remake and "Armageddon."

No limo for Kylie Minogue, thank you

Kylie Minogue has been at the pop-star business for a while, but she's never gotten used to some of the trappings of fame — like limousines. "I find them embarrassing," she tells The Independent. "I'm like, 'Please don't send a limousine!'"

▶ That said, Kylie does wear the limo well.

Kiss and tell with Prince Harry

If photos of **Prince Harry**'s wild naked party in Las Vegas last month aren't enough, British beautician **Carrie Reichert** is more than happy to share some details of that wild night. Reichert was invited up to the prince's suite along with nine other women for the evening's festivities, she reveals in an interview with Britain's The People. "We kissed. He was naked at the time, and pretty open. It was a drunken fumble. It wasn't romantic, just fun," she says. "He was a gentleman, but he was so wasted. The alcohol affected him. I was there for 15 to 20 minutes."

2

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

@BobNewhart
Performing standup is a narcotic that I need- even if I do it a few times a year. Traveling is inconvenient but worth it to make people laugh

@JimGaffigan
"Maybe we can sell more clams if we put them in a liquid that looks like vomit?" - Inventor of clam chowder

@kathynajimy
sometimes i look up reality stars to see how many followers they have. ..... Then i resent my college education.

@yokoono
Your summer dream will always stay in your heart. But your heart is already breathing in the future. Let it breathe the air of the world.

Yoko Ono

Glamming it up at the Venice Film Festival

1. Hello, glow: **Kate Hudson** went for gold on the red carpet.

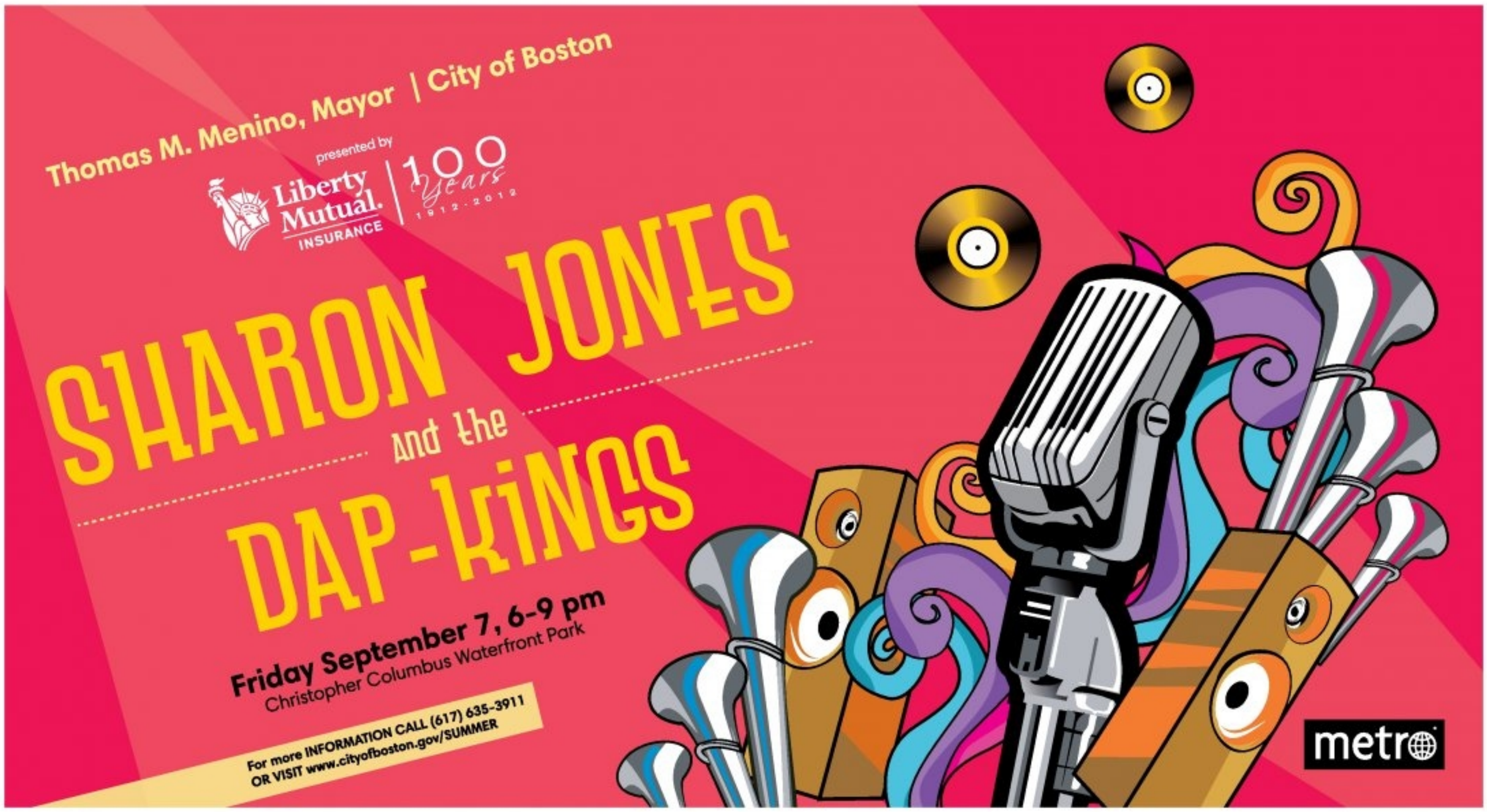
2. He may not act the part, but look into his twinkling eyes and tell us that **Zac Efron** doesn't look like a movie star.

3. Like cigarettes, in 2012 we know that **Joaquin Phoenix** is a life-sucking void — which we still can not resist on occasion.

4. Does anyone look more comfortable being rich and famous? **Pierce Brosnan** caught a little downtime in the Venice Movie Stars Lounge.

5. Meet actress Madisen Beaty. Now, meet **Madisen Beaty**'s dress.

1: ZUMA/KYO CELOTTO/GETTY IMAGES
2: ELISABETTA A. VILLA/WIREIMAGE
3: GARETH CATTERMOLE/GETTY IMAGES
4: IAN GAVAN/GETTY IMAGES
5: GARETH CATTERMOLE/GETTY IMAGES



An 18th century reality TV star

If you go

'Marie Antoinette'
Through Sept. 29
Loeb Drama Center
64 Brattle St., Cambridge
$25-$35, 617-547-8300
www.americanrepertorytheater.org

Director discusses the differences between American Repertory Theater's 'Marie Antoinette' and Marie Antoinette She was such a 'ludicrous' person that truth is stranger than fiction

Despite her tragic demise, Marie Antoinette's life had its comedic elements. And that's putting it lightly.

"Her life was completely ludicrous," says David Adjmi, playwright of the American Repertory Theater's first show of the 2012/2013 season, which is titled after the infamous Queen of France.

"She wore gigantic, three-foot wigs. Birds lived in them and ships [perched on the top of them]. Just the ecosystems of these wigs were inarguably grandiose. I couldn't image writing about that with a straight face."

Antoinette was the Paris Hilton of pre-revolutionary France, an extravagant, flighty member of the 1 percent. She was beheaded more than 250 years ago, but her reputation endures through modern-day dramatizations.

IEVGENIA ELISEEVA

▶ David Greenspan and Brooke Bloom rehearse for "Marie Antoinette" with a few wooly friends.

History? Bah

Adjmi admits he's no history buff. Though he did some research before writing "Marie Antoinette," he didn't worry about historical fidelity in the play.

"I need to study history in a very personal way, with interpolations," he says with a laugh. Audiences will get that message when talking sheep take the stage.

"Somehow she's a sponge for whatever anxieties we have about the way we live, especially in the spectrum of global capitalism," says Adjmi. "It was impossible to write this play without seeing how it dovetails with culture right now."

But does Antoinette get a bad rap? At 14, the Austrian native abandoned everything she knew — her family, language and comforts — to live in a foreign court. There, she was in the public eye constantly, like an 18th-century reality TV star.

"It was disorienting and jarring for her," explains Adjmi. "She used eccentric fashion and attention-seeking to buffer some real emotional loss — in my play, anyway. That's how I imagined it."

NORA DUNNE
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TV watch list

▶ Michael Strahan served as guest host on "Live! With Kelly" and should be officially confirmed as the show's new co-host this morning.

GETTY IMAGES

'Live! With Kelly'

TALK. Regis Philbin's replacement as Kelly Ripa's new co-host is officially announced today. **9 a.m., ABC**

'Dragons: Riders of Berk'

ANIMATED. The characters from "How to Train Your Dragon" get their own animated series following their adventures ... training dragons. **Series premiere, 7:30 p.m., Cartoon Network**

'Flipping Out'

REALITY. After firing half his staff, house flipper/interior designer Jeff Lewis attempts to create his dream home — so expect double the stress. **Season premiere, 9 p.m., Bravo**

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CONSIDER THE HUMAN

A new biography of David Foster Wallace reveals multiple sides of the troubled yet brilliant author of 'Infinite Jest' and 'The Pale King'

In "Infinite Jest," David Foster Wallace's most acclaimed work, Ken Erdedy, a character who eventually winds up in rehab due to prolific pot binges, enters the novel anxiously waiting for his dealer. Ironically, the discipline Erdedy applies to arranging his binges nearly equals the discipline he'll need to kick the habit.

The scene represents what may have been Wallace's greatest gift — his ability to describe the inner workings of our minds. There's a striking authenticity to Erdedy that those who have indulged will relate to — and will also make the reader curious about the writer himself.

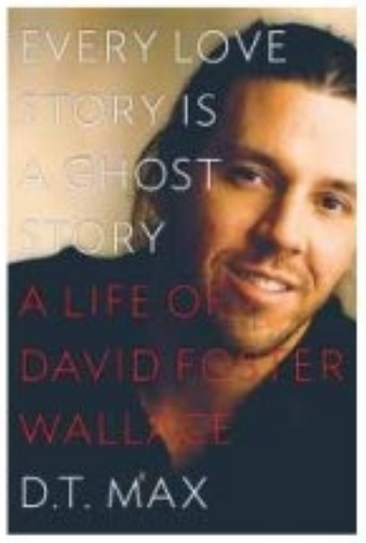
In "Every Love Story is a Ghost Story," D.T. Max presents an intricate companion guide to understanding Wallace's life and works. As Max puts it, "David's story had a purity even in its impurity."

Following David's life from his Midwestern roots up to his untimely death, his path appears more as a battle against himself, shifting from a youth with the "moral clarity of the immature," as he wrote in his debut novel, "The Broom of the System," to a writer who deeply cared about his readership, aching to teach them how to live life to the fullest.

"The thing that's so alluring and seductive about David," Max says, "is that he never loses interest in your life. What all his work sends is 'take yourself seriously.'"

But that wasn't always the case. Max's portrayal of Wallace greatly differs at times from the identity that Wallace honed through his work and interviews. For instance, avid Wallace fans will be surprised to learn that his research into drug addiction and rehabilitation for "Infinite Jest" came firsthand, and how his relationships could produce a side of Wallace that was borderline psychotic.

D.T. Max



"The dark side of David is so closely tied in with the bright side of him. I think if we didn't have that dark side ... teaching us to take our lives seriously wouldn't be possible." D.T. MAX

However, Max says, "The dark side of David is so closely tied in with the bright side of him. I think if we didn't have that dark side ... teaching us to take our lives seriously wouldn't be possible."

Wallace was also, at times, a fun, loving person who watched "Jurassic Park" dozens of times, drove a lemon hours on end to visit friends and let his dogs lick his mouth clean.

Max's biography is part vigil, part celebration. Wallace was a writer who gave so much to a readership that loved him in return. When Max describes Wallace's time as a professor, it's hard not to yearn to have been one of his students.

"Every Love Story" also details Wallace's works with a criticism that respects his authorial intent, illuminating them further.

Even though there'll be no more works from Wallace, who committed suicide in 2008, "Every Love Story" offers a wonderful dose of his life and ideas, asking us, as Wallace did, "What's it like to be human in a human community?"

"I don't think he gave us the answer," Max says, "but I think he gave us the gift of the question."

DAVID FINKEL
letters@metro.us

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LICE ADVICE

Learn how to spot and treat the little creepers that love to invade your child's hairline ◆ Having lice doesn't equal hygiene problems

Head lice isn't a part of parenting that anyone wants a part of, but it's so common that most end up dealing with it at some point.

"Lice are so prevalent, I've had to deal with it as a parent, too," says Boston-based pediatrician Dr. Nancy Kahn, MD, FAAP, a clinical instructor of pediatric medicine at Harvard Medical School. "One study found that one in four elementary school kids gets them. They're so contagious, but they have to be transported by another vehicle. You get them from sharing scrunchies, a comb, brush or hat with someone who has them."

The big problem isn't killing the adult lice; it's detecting the eggs, which are called nits, and removing them to prevent further infection. Nits stick like glue to the hair shaft. "The eggs are grayish-white," Dr. Kahn says. "If you see a white spot on the hair that can be flicked off, it isn't nits, it's dandruff or [lint]. If it's stuck on the hair, it's nits."

"Lice are so prevalent, I've had to deal with it as a parent, too." DR. KAHN

Treatment varies from over-the-counter shampoos and topical solutions, but "these contain pesticides, so there is the worry that you're putting pesticides on your child's head for several hours," Dr. Kahn says. For a home remedy, try olive oil: "This basically suffocates them," she says.

LINDA CLARKE
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Myth vs. fact

Head lice is wrongly associated with a lack of cleanliness. "You do not get nits from having dirty hair," says Dr. Kahn. "They don't jump or fly either," she adds, debunking another myth. "Also, they can't live off the human body for more than a couple of days, so they can't live in the home. Once you get rid of the eggs from the hair, then re-infection is less likely."

Try these:

- **Ladibugs:** This chemical-free line includes shampoo, conditioner, leave-in mint spray, serum and mousse. The company also offers a 24-hour hotline if you find yourself in need of help at any hour. **www.ladibugshaircare.com**
- **Fairy Tales Hair Care:** Its Rosemary Repel line of hair care utilizes organic ingredients such as rosemary, tea tree, citronella, peppermint and lavender oils to combat the pesky bugs. You can also download its free iPhone app, The Facts of Lice, to learn about outbreaks in your area or report one of your own. **www.fairytaleshair-care.com**
- **LiceGuard:** In addition to pesticide-free shampoo, LiceGuard also makes the Robi Comb, an electronic comb that kills lice on contact. **www.liceguard.com**
- **LiceEnders:** This nontoxic line uses herbs in its fight against the little critters. **www.liceenders.com**

Getting rid of nits is crucial to treating your child's lice.

What we're into

UNICEF's new boxes are now available.

Spook-tacular contest

This year, your kids have the opportunity to design the famous UNICEF box that trick-or-treaters will be toting around next Halloween. From now until Oct. 26, little artists can submit an entry for the "Create-A-Character" contest at www.trickortreatforunicef.org. Three winners will be announced on Halloween. Want to leave the artwork to someone else? UNICEF is also premiering six new character-themed boxes in time for this year's trick-or-treating; order them online at http://youth.unicefusa.org.

Make-your-own hand sanitizer

Just in time for back-to-school, keep your kids' hands clean the all-natural way with this chemical-free recipe from Dr. Lawrence Rosen, an expert in pediatric integrative medicine:

INGREDIENTS

- 3 oz. filtered water
- 1 tsp. aloe vera gel
- 10 drops cinnamon essential oil
- 10 drops clove essential oil
- 10 drops rosemary essential oil
- 10 drops eucalyptus essential oil
- 20 drops lemon oil

INSTRUCTIONS

Mix ingredients in a 4-ounce spray dispenser, and shake gently.

Spray on children's hands, and teach them to massage the spray into their hands for 30 seconds.

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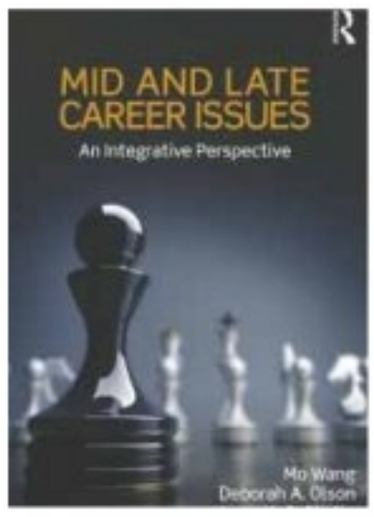
New study shows older workers more loyal, better collaborators



Perhaps the most comprehensive study on employees 45 years of age and older will be released Friday, and the findings will likely provide a boost of confidence to older workers.

"Mid and Late Life Career Issues: An Integrative Perspective" is authored by researchers from the University of Florida, the University of La Verne and Cal State-San Bernardino. It contains a bounty of new quantitative data, with first-hand employee interviews and a thorough analysis of existing research.

The study suggests that older workers tend to be better collaborators than their younger counterparts. Moreover, they typically handle negative workplace emotions in a more constructive way.

"This is the kind of message that needs to get out!" declares Kerry Hannon, the author of "Great Jobs for Everyone 50+," and the AARP Jobs Expert. "People get so twisted around about hiring older workers." she continues.

"With experience, we [older workers] have gone through a lot of different cycles in the economy. So, when something happens like a layoff, we're a lot more adaptable. We won't get thrown off the porch."

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Kerry Hannon (not pictured), the AARP Jobs Expert advises older workers that "they need to be in business for themselves, even if they're working for someone else."

Myth busting

A critical take-away from the new study, "Mid and Late Life Career Issues": researchers found no substance to the widespread claim that older workers are harder to train for new positions, jobs and tasks.

Lead researcher Dr. Mo Wang stresses that little serious research exists on this subject, and that most of their findings are simply suggestions for further investigation. But when it comes to performance evaluations, he sees pervasive distinctions between old and young employees, and these results may not feel so flattering to the more mature.

"Older workers want to maintain a positive standing in their supervisor's eyes, while younger workers mainly focus on learning from the feedback," says Wang. "It seems to be the emotional experience that older people are more focused on. They value the relationship. Younger workers value the knowledge."

BRUCE WALSH
bruce.walsh@metro.us

Tips for the workplace

IMAGE100/CORBIS

▶ When in doubt, a face-to-face conversation may be best.

The pitfalls of over-emailing

When your boss sends you an email asking to complete a task, the natural inclination is to respond via email, but that's not always best. Sometimes speaking with your boss in person actually saves time. Plus, you don't run the risk of misunderstanding your assignment.

"There's the prevailing thought in the professional world that valuable time is wasted in meetings; while this may be true, it's also wasted with continuous back-and-forths via email, when a face-to-face would instantly provide a solution," says Steve McClatchy, founder of Alleer Training and Consulting in Malvern.

"Constant use of email hurts productivity. Our brains do not multi-task. Instead, we rapidly 'switch channels' from one task to the next. This is not efficient."
TRES ROEDER

By walking to your boss's office and speaking with her, you can actually get to the bottom line much faster. A face-to-face conversation also allows you to focus on the that discussion instead of glossing over your email while you have a dozen other tabs open and programs running.

"Constant use of email hurts productivity. Our brains do not multi-task. Instead, we rapidly 'switch channels' from one task to the next. This is not efficient," explains Tres Roeder, author of "A Sixth Sense for Project Management," and founder and president of Roeder Consulting. As for meetings, there are times when they're actually more efficient than CC'ed email chains. Plus, there's never that embarrassing "reply all" mistake.

Of course, the use of email is inevitable, and when done properly it's an ideal tool. "Bosses want to know that you are managing the project — which means compiling all the questions, content and updates about the project into concise exchanges of information that are communicated to the team — and the boss — on regular intervals that make sense for that project," says Robin Bond, Esq., Employment Attorney at Transition Strategies, LLC. But how will you know the best intervals per project? We suggest you speak to your boss personally to find out.

JULIA WEST

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Job Openings of the Week

Customer Service Representatives – OfficeTeam is currently working with a number of Healthcare and Insurance companies that are hiring Customer Service Representatives on a temporary basis. The ability to handle up to 100 phones calls per day, navigate multiple databases during customer calls, and always maintain a high level of professionalism is required for these positions.Prior experience working in a call center or for a healthcare or insurance company is preferred. $10-12/hour.

Office Assistant – Our client, a growing local non-profit firm, is looking to hire an Office Assistant/ Administrative Assistant to help with filing, copying, data entry and much more. This is a dynamic position for the Office Assistant who is organized and committed to the profession. The ideal candidate will be able to operate basic office equipment and complete general office work. Proficiency in Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel is preferred. $11-13/hour.

Front Desk Coordinator - A large financial firm is ready to hire a Front Desk Coordinator to manage the lobby area. This will include greeting and directing all visitors, including vendors, clients, job candidates and customers. The successful Front Desk Coordinator will also handle special administrative projects, as well as overflow work from department and executive assistants. Incoming phone call management will be required, so experience with multi-line phone systems is preferred. Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work well with others is required. $12-14/hour.

Long-term Project Assistant Opportunity - OfficeTeam is working with an innovative client in need of a Project Assistant. Our client is committed to helping companies develop leaders and critical thinkers, and needs a detail-orientated Project Assistant to help with crafting presentations, arranging meetings, and editing materials. The Project Assistant must be an independent worker with advanced computer and communication skills. Some event planning experience would be helpful, but is not a requirement. This is a great opportunity to work with a growing company and use your creative background! $13-15/hour.

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Letters

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Marriage is what brings society together today

Why does the government recognize marriage? What is the benefit of publicly recognizing a permanent relationship between a man and a woman, versus two children, or two men? Is it because thousands of years of recorded history have shown that a monogamous, permanent, heterosexual relationship benefits the people involved as well as society, whereas other relationships do not have this same benefit? Is it because solid traditional marriages have shown time and again to be the way not only to naturally procreate children — the future of our society — but are also the best environment for children to be raised in? Check the objective scientific studies. Healthy kids, healthy future for society. Marriage is about way more than just the two people involved. Reducing marriage to a public recognition of any persons who claim to be in love throws out everything else that marriage truly is and puts our society at even greater risk.

JASON LEE, VIA E-MAIL

Quality TV: Empty chair debates the $2,000 suit

I'm a lifelong fan of Clint Eastwood, even with Trophy Wife No. 4 or 5., and watched him on stage with an empty chair that was to represent President Barack Obama. The same could be said for Gov. Mitt Romney, who himself could have been represented by an empty $2,000 Brooks Brothers suit and a tape recorder.

I'm really looking forward to the debates now.

ANTONIO BENJAMIN, VIA E-MAIL

Mitt Romney needs to take a trip to his neighborhood deli

After watching Mitt Romney's acceptance speech at the RNC, I am left with more questions than answers. He used many buzzwords and one-liners, but Americans are left asking, "where's the beef?" Romney gave no specific plan, no details and no way to pay for it. It's easy to say, "the other guy is wrong and I can do better," but you have to show people how. It's easy to say you are going to create 12 million new jobs, but without the how, it's just words.

If Romney wants to get elected, he better spend the new month seriously working on the how.

CARL HANSON, VIA E-MAIL

GOP's America likes oil and guns, dislikes the poor

Bush was personable too, and look where that got us: A Dow of 6,000 and the financial markets going belly up. Romney is a carbon copy of Bush, putting the wealthy, corporations, military and Big Oil ahead of the working man and the poor.

Who the heck would vote for a party that wants to give millionaires and billionaires a tax cut at the expense of programs for the poor and middle class?

The GOP is nothing but fat cats who undoubtedly will give the military a chance to try out their new equipment in another war.

LARRY BLONG, VIA E-MAIL

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Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** The social sphere in which you'll be operating is likely to be charged with an air of expectancy. You'll love it, because it tends to make everything seem more exciting.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Because you're prepared to work for what you get, you'll be in an extremely favorable financial cycle. You won't expect any free rides, and the rewards will seem bigger because of this.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** A friend in whom you place considerable confidence will have several constructive suggestions for you. Give his or her ideas a shot — they are likely to help you resolve a problem.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Conditions look to be favorable, but your greatest breaks are likely to come in the financial or commercial realms, even though you may not be looking for them in those quarters.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You're presently in an extremely favorable cycle in terms of popularity. Before the period is over, you could pick up scads of new friends and admirers.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Instinctively, you will know how to make some pretty smart moves in order to give your family certain things they desire. Just do what comes naturally, and you'll come out ahead.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** You always seem to have an abundance of ideas that are extremely satisfying and feasible, and they'll be better than usual at present. Share your thinking with those who'll appreciate it.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Your chances for getting something that you really want are better than usual at this time. If you have enough motivation, you won't hesitate to go after the big fish.

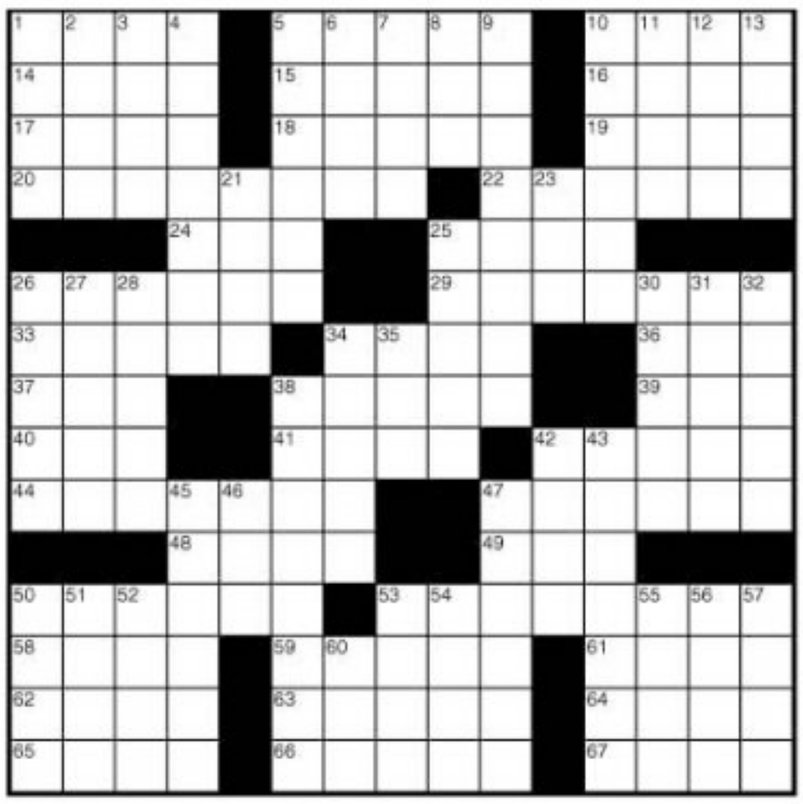
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** It shouldn't be too difficult for you to recognize that someone else's idea is valuable. What you do with it will make it either better or useless.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Being one of those days when you're resourceful, you should easily be able to put your talents to work, especially in matters that pertain to your career.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Any suggestion you make is likely to be a good one, especially if it's work-related. Don't hesitate to express what's on your mind.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Don't be intimidated by challenging developments, because you are likely to perform exceptionally well when your mettle is tested. The secret is to believe in your abilities.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL



Across
1 Shade of green
5 Important
10 Gives silent assent
14 Qatar ruler
15 Split to join
16 Cruel
17 Yukon, briefly
18 Sighed with delight
19 Pasta go-with
20 Comes uninvited (2 wds.)
22 Weaseled out of
24 Zilch
25 Off in the distance
26 Like pine scent
29 Hockey buff (2 wds.)
33 Pile up
34 Anagram for nail
36 "Shogun" apparel
37 Body art, for short
38 Social asset
39 Wire gauge
40 Ernesto Guevara
41 Tick off
42 Slope
44 Gave a hard time
47 Invented a word
48 Off-rd. vehicles
49 Insect resin
50 Mention casually
53 Car trunk items (2 wds.)
58 Miner's find
59 Averages
61 Trash hauler
62 Noted lava spewer
63 Lightweight cord
64 Circle dance
65 Atlantic swimmers
66 Final Four games
67 By and by

Down
1 Nozzles
2 Revival shout
3 Catastrophic
4 Tasks
5 Skimpy
6 Half a fronton game
7 Oaters' -- Wayne
8 Unbar, in poetry
9 Give new meaning to
10 LaGuardia alternative
11 Classical poet
12 Enjoy a feast
13 Arctic transport
21 Date ender, often
23 Boxy vehicle
25 Emerge, as the phoenix
26 Keep an eye on
27 Insurance center
28 Joyce Carol —
30 Candle or legion
31 Stay
32 Like some showers
34 Burglars' "keys"
35 Feel awful
38 Nips in the bud
42 Striker's aim
43 Hong Kong taxi (var.)
45 Condo luxuries
46 British inc.
47 Locks up
50 With, to Henri
51 Apollo's mother
52 Soprano Jenny —
53 Lace or ribbons
54 All, in combos
55 Desktop picture
56 Matador's opponent
57 Ugly Duckling, actually
60 Go in debt

1	7			2				
		4			1			6
8			5				2	
	2	5	3				9	1
6				5				8
4	9				7	2	3	
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9			6			5		
				4			1	7

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

6					9		1	
5			1			8		
1			4	6			2	
		4		7			8	
	8		6		4		5	
	9			8		7		
	1			4	6			5
		6			8			3
	5		3					8

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to weekend's crossword

P	A	H		A	K	I	T	A			C	H	E	F
A	D	A		N	O	D	E	S		S	H	A	D	E
B	L	U	E	G	I	A	N	T		T	A	L	E	S
L	I	T	E	R			T	E	L	E	P	O	R	T
O	B	E	L	I	S	K		R	O	L	E			
			S	E	I	N	E		B	L	A	S	T	S
P	V	C		R	A	I	L	S		A	U	T	R	Y
L	O	O	P		M	C	C	O	Y		X	M	E	N
A	C	M	E	S		K	I	L	O	S		T	E	E
N	E	A	R	E	D		D	O	G	I	E			
			C	L	E	F		S	A	M	P	A	N	S
B	A	C	I	L	L	U	S			M	I	L	A	N
O	L	I	V	E		S	P	I	C	E	C	A	K	E
S	O	N	A	R		E	A	T	E	R		M	E	A
H	E	E	L			S	N	A	P	S		O	D	D

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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Rally for Raleigh

- If you're looking for Southern hospitality and quality food and drink, then North Carolina's capital city is a newly exciting destination
- Check out the thriving arts scene

▶ Customers stop into Fox Liquor as soon as it opens every afternoon.

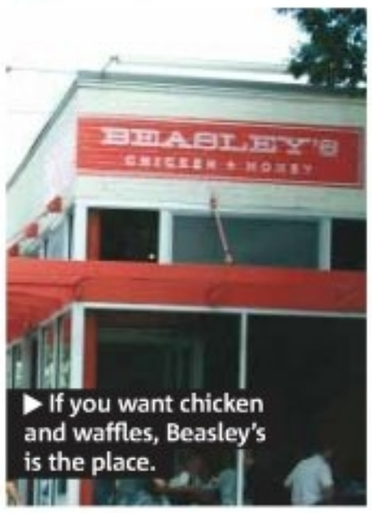
ALL PHOTOS: REBECCA FORREST

In the South, cities tend to expand outward instead of upward. Raleigh surely fell victim to that trend. In the past few years, however, the capital city of North Carolina has seen a welcomed and vibrant rebirth in food and arts culture. Raleigh's go-to destinations now encompass the areas around the capital building. Fayetteville, Salisbury and Wilmington streets now boast the coolest destinations and tend to be jam-packed full of patrons night after night.

With the influx of new restaurants, a new light has been shed on age-old standards. **Mo's Diner** isn't a diner at all, but a house converted into a high-end and down-home restaurant with service in each of its three dining rooms. Despite the new taste for the gourmet, the surrounding area still offers plenty of inexpensive options. **The Mecca Restaurant** is a third-generation, family-run mainstay, open since 1930 and serving Southern cooking late into the night. And for a real bargain, head down to **Cooper's BBQ** for a local lunch counter experience and a barbecue that has been ranked as one of the top in the country.

When it comes to bars, Raleigh's scene is mainly underground — literally. The **Foundation Lounge** is subterranean, featuring unheard of concoctions and an unmatched selection of whiskeys. For a louder and grittier experience, head to **Neptune**, whose basement bar features classic arcade games and rock deejays.

NOLAN GAWRON
letters@metro.us



▶ If you want chicken and waffles, Beasley's is the place.

▶ Many credit the opening of Poole's Diner as the start of a rebirth in downtown Raleigh.

Restaurant rebirth

Spearheading the downtown restaurant rebirth is chef/owner Ashley Christensen, who began by revamping **Poole's Diner** in 2007. Featuring an ever-changing menu of locally-grown ingredients, this "diner" takes no reservations, has a line out the door and quickly became the standard and redefinition of local flavor. Just last year, Christensen opened three new establishments, all right next to each other on S. Wilmington Street. **Beasley's Chicken + Honey** is a sleek chicken and waffles spot. **Chuck** is a meaty cafeteria-styled restaurant. And **Fox Liquor** raises the bar on cocktails and mixology in the South. Many of the spirits and cocktails featured were previously unavailable and unheard of down in the area.

If you go

- **Poole's Diner**
  426 S. McDowell St.
  www.poolesdowntowndiner.com
- **Beasley's Chicken + Honey**
  237 S. Wilmington St.
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- **Chuck**
  237 S. Wilmington St.
  www.ac-restaurants.com/chucks
- **Fox Liquor**
  237 S. Wilmington St.
  www.ac-restaurants.com/fox
- **Mo's Diner**
  306 E. Hargett St.
  www.mosdiner.net
- **The Mecca Restaurant**
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  www.mecca-restaurant.com
- **Cooper's BBQ**
  109 E. Davie St.
  www.clydecooperbbq.com
- **Foundation Lounge**
  213 Fayetteville St.
  www.foundationnc.com
- **Neptune**
  14 W. Martin St.
  www.neptunesparlour.com

On the stage

The roots of a cool fest

Raleigh also has grown exponentially in terms of entertainment. New venues have sprouted up and all participate in the yearly Hopscotch Festival. Currently in its third year, national and international acts now join the regional talent that the Hopscotch festival prides itself on. Much like South by Southwest in its infancy, Hopscotch could become the Southeast's hottest ticket. This year Yo La Tengo, The Roots and The Jesus and Mary Chain headline the festival, while more than 175 other bands fill out the three-day, 15-venue festival. Visit www.hopscotchmusicfest.com for info.

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destinations

The non-gambler's guide to Las Vegas

The Mecca of slots and table games doesn't have to be so sinful of a city See the fun (sober) side of town

Vegas is synonymous with over-the-top glitz, one-armed bandits and 24-hour buffets, and some people avoid it for these reasons. Yet the land of plenty is a chameleon, capable of flashing a different shade of neon for every taste and stripe. Modern Vegas is coming of age, recognizing that people go to the Glitter Gulch for more than just gaming and Eiffel Tower-sized margaritas.

Start early and get to know a side of Vegas many never see: the Strip at 6.30 a.m. Walking along the surprisingly peaceful Las Vegas Boulevard in the morning has become a popular "must-do" for those who frequent Sin City for any reason other than partying.

Shop 'til you drop on the Strip

In addition to non-gaming hotels and high-end circus acts, shopping malls and boutiques have taken up almost every available piece of real estate in and between hotels; some visitors just come for the sun and shopping alone. Pack light because every thinkable boutique from Alexander McQueen to Jimmy Choo has set up shop on and around the Strip. Want a deal? Venture off-Strip to the Las Vegas Premium Outlets North to exercise your credit card at shops like J.Crew, Ted Baker and Theory.

Peer into Vegas' storied past at the **Neon Museum**, where more than 150 iconic signs dating back to the early 1930s rest in peace in the two-acre "Boneyard." During the warmer months, tours are at 10 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday by advance appointment only. A suggested donation of $15 helps cover the cost of keeping the nonprofit facility fabulous.

It started with a circus act in Montreal, and years later, an army of seven awe-inspiring and trapeze-flying **Cirque du Soleil** shows have their big-top tent poles firmly rooted in Vegas' entertainment scene. We recommend "O," an aquatic surrealism production combining Olympic-caliber sports and theatrics, or "KA," a tale of two twins who explore the world through a mechanical stage that performs as many gravity-defying acrobatics as the 80 artists in the show.

A lifestyle movement has sprouted with non-gaming resorts and lifestyle entertainment that won't leave you lamenting Sin City on the flight home. The new Vegas is whatever you make it — sunning at the pool or shopping at the only **Manolo Blahnik** outside of Manhattan. Lady Luck has done it again, proving she's still got it even outside the casino.

THINKSTOCK IMAGES

▶ Believe it or not, you can have a fabulous time in this city without setting foot in a casino.

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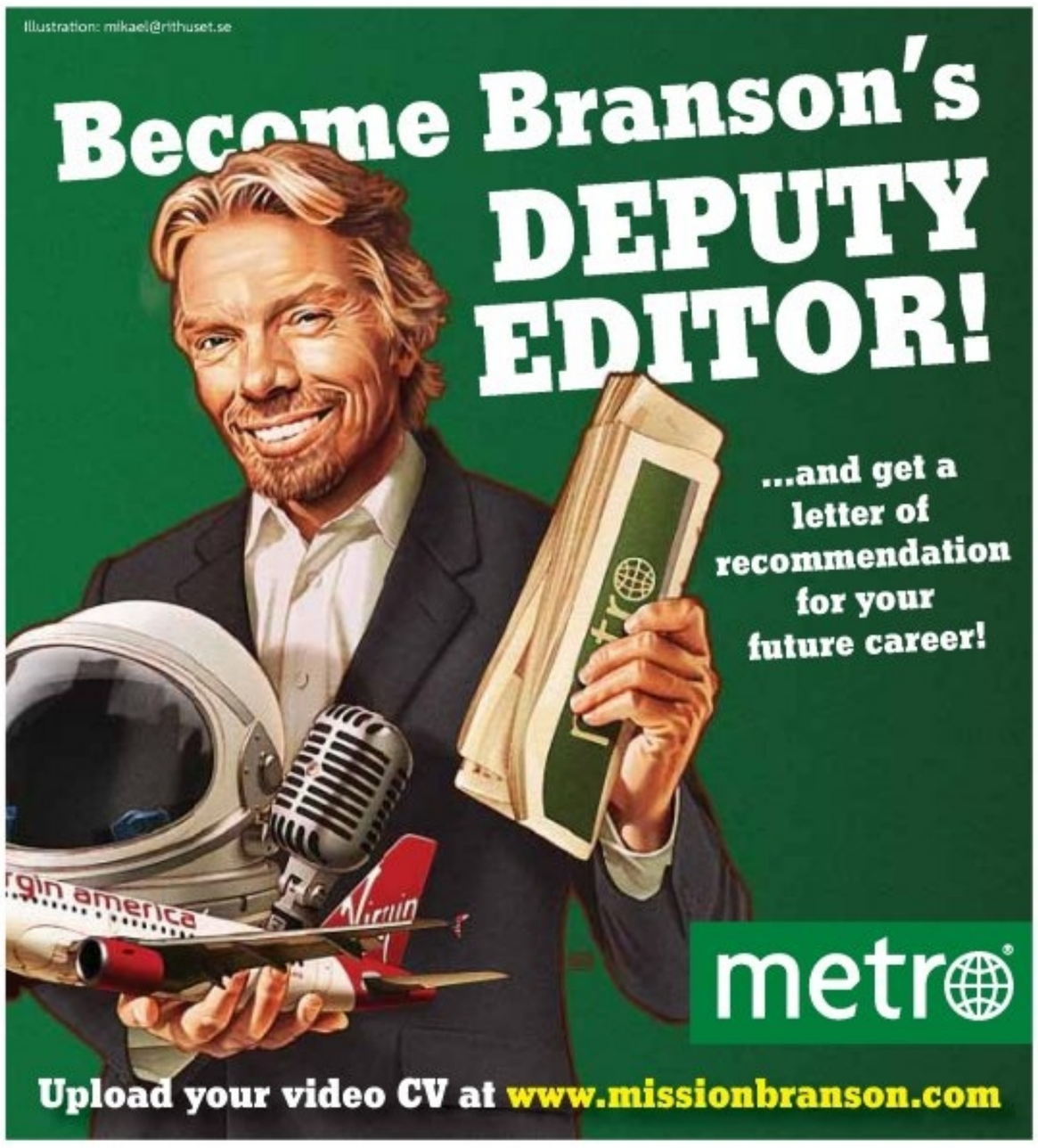

McIlroy crowned at TPC

Boston roots McIlroy on to victory at Deutsche Bank Irish golfer edges Oosthuizen, Woods

With Louis Oosthuizen and Rory McIlroy holding six- and three-shot leads, respectively, over the rest of the field entering Monday's final round of the Deutsche Bank Championship, it was expected to be a two-man race to the finish.

That's exactly what happened, as fans were treated to a suspenseful back-9 in which McIlroy held off Oosthuizen to win the 2012 Deutsche Bank Championship by one stroke at 20-under par.

"I am delighted to get my fifth win on the PGA Tour, third win this year and the second in my last three events. Today was great," McIlroy said.

The two players stood at the 530-yard par-5 18th tee with McIlroy holding a one-shot lead. When they reached the green each player had birdie putts of similar lengths of about 20-feet. When McIlroy's putt sat right on the edge of the cup and did not fall, Oosthuizen was left with a putt to force a sudden death playoff. But it was not meant to be, as the putt slid just to the right of the cup, giving McIlroy the win.

"I probably made all my putts [Sunday], and that is why I didn't make any today," Oosthuizen said jokingly after the round, coming off of 63 in Sunday's third round.

Entering the day leading McIlroy by three strokes, Oosthuizen stumbled coming out of the gate, shooting a one-over 36 on the front-9, which included a double-bogey on the par-4 fifth.

McIlroy on the other hand came out on fire, birdying five of the first nine holes, and despite a dropped shot on the fifth, his 4-under 31 gave him a two-stroke lead entering the back-9.

McIlroy, the world's No. 1 ranked player, now leads the FedEx Cup playoffs going into the final two events of the four-event playoff series.

RYAN HANNABLE
sports@metro.us

Quoted

"I just wanted to get off to a good, solid start and maybe put Louis under a bit of pressure."

RORY MCILROY ON BATTLING LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN

WARREN LITTLE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Rory McIlroy was the fan favorite in Norton, Mass., this past weekend.

Tiger in the hunt

Tiger Woods was in the thick of things until the end at the Deutsche Bank:

- **Woods** shot a 66 in the tourney's fourth round, the best of his four days. It was good enough for third place.
- **Phil Mickelson** was also in the mix Sunday. He finished 14-under, tied for fourth.

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Valentine on the 8th of his 9 lives

How low can they go?

At this point for the Red Sox, grabbing two or three wins in the month of September will be a tall task.

Yesterday, it seemed as though the firing of manager Bobby Valentine was imminent. Valentine had breakfast with team owner John Henry in Seattle and it was originally concluded by the masses that Bobby V. was having his last meal as field boss of the Sox. Later in the day, however, Henry said he was "resolute" in keeping Valentine as Boston manager for the remainder of the 2012 season.

The goodwill that was bought by the Boston front office for ridding the payroll of three giant contracts was certainly old news by last night, as the Red Sox had lost seven consecutive games for the first time since 2001.

7th straight 'L'

- **The Red Sox** lost their seventh straight game yesterday in Seattle, a 4-1 decision to the Mariners.
- **Dustin Pedroia** registered his 1,000th career hit.

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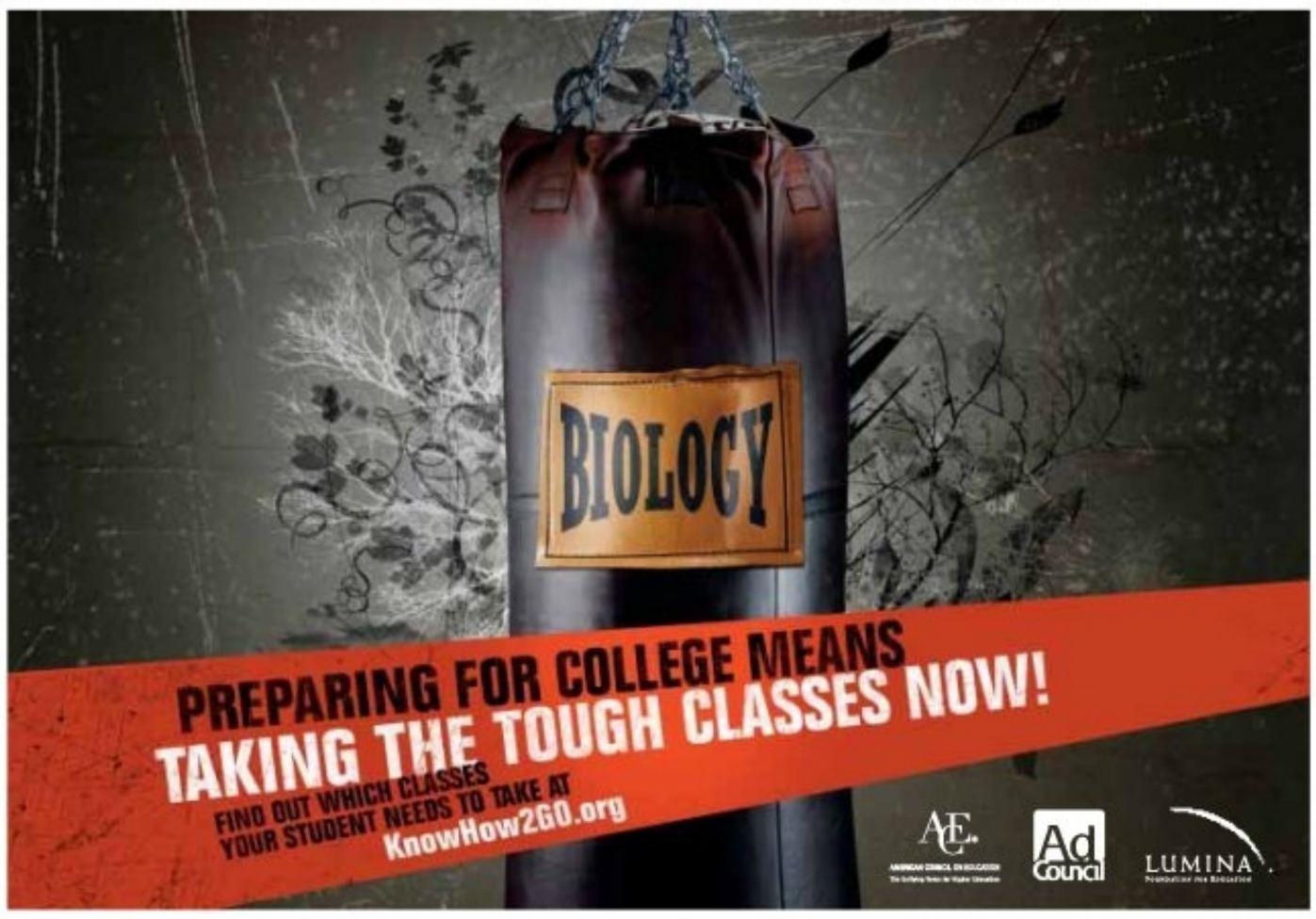

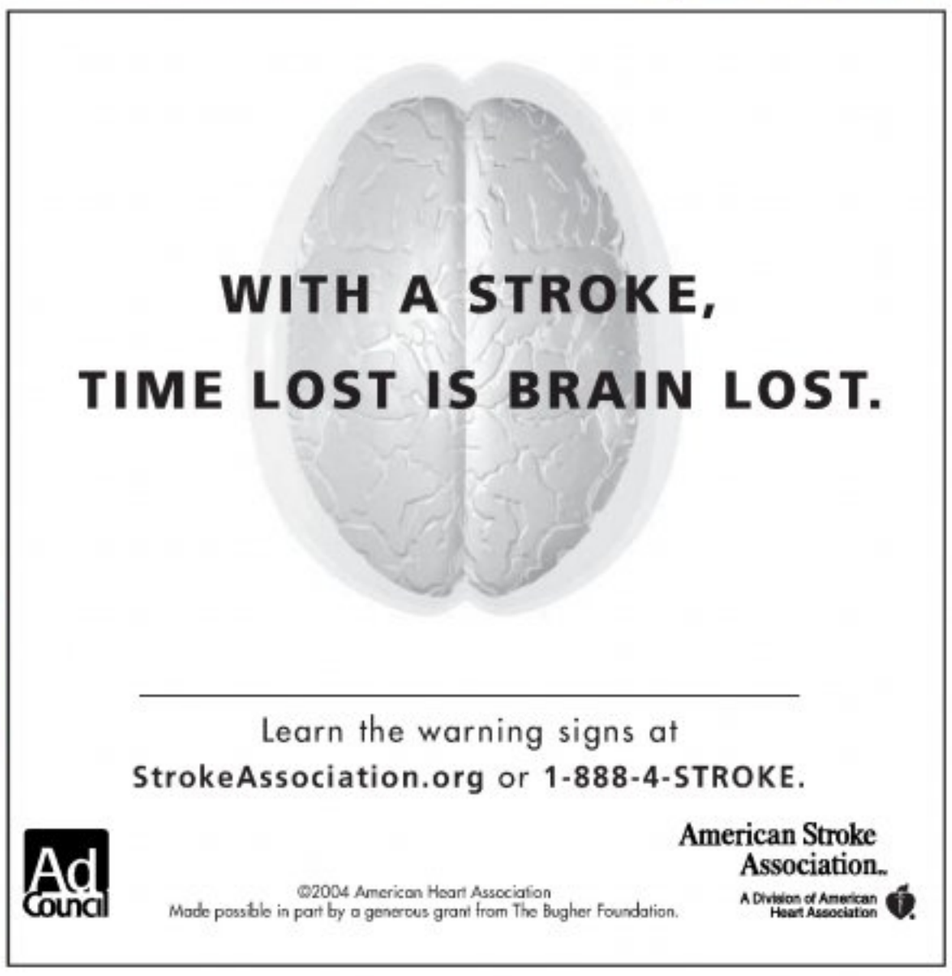
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